

In the Claims

1-51 (canceled).

52 (previously presented). A chromatin insulator consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1.

53 (previously presented). A vector comprising one or more insulators consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1.

54 (currently amended). The vector according to claim 53, further comprising a DNA element selected from

- a) an enhancer or a functional expression enhancing fragment thereof;
- b) a promoter domain or a functional expression promoting fragment thereof; or
- c) a DNA sequence coding for one or more polypeptides of interest.

55 (previously presented). The vector according to claim 53, further comprising one or more DNA sequences coding for regulatory elements selected from 5'UTRs, introns, 3'UTRs, mRNA 3' end processing sequences, polyadenylation sites, and internal ribosome entry sequences (IRES).

56 (currently amended). The vector according to claim 54, wherein the said DNA sequence is coding for more than one polypeptide of interest encodes said more than one polypeptide through a polycistronic mRNA.

57 (previously presented). The vector according to claim 54, further comprising one or more DNA elements selected from boundary elements, locus control regions (LCRs), matrix attachment regions (MARs), and elements for recombination and cassette exchange.

58 (previously presented). The vector according to claim 54, wherein the promoter is selected from cellular or viral/phage promoters such as mCMV-IE1, mCMV-IE2, hCMV, SV40, RSV, T7, T3, or a functional expression promoting fragment thereof.

59 (currently amended). The vector according to claim 54, wherein the polypeptide of ~~interest~~ is selected from FSH, LH, CG, TSH, growth hormone, interferon, TNF binding protein I, TNF binding protein II, IL-18BP, IL-6, IFNAR1, LIF or fusion proteins thereof.

60 (currently amended). The vector according to claim 54, wherein the polypeptide of ~~interest~~ is selected from EPO, G-CSF, GM-CSF, a chain of a humanized antibody, a cytokine, a coagulation factor, etanercept, tPA, an integrin or fusion proteins thereof.

61 (currently amended). The vector according to claim 54, wherein the polypeptide of ~~interest~~ is selected from adenosine deaminase (ADA), aminoglycoside phosphotransferase (neo), dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR), hygromycin-B-phosphotransferase (HPH), thymidine kinase (tk), xanthine-guanine phosphoribosyltransferase (gpt), multiple drug resistance gene (MDR), ornithine decarboxylase (ODC) and N-(phosphonacetyl)-L-aspartate resistance (CAD), puromycin acyltransferase (PAC), galactokinase, human folate receptor, or reduced folate carriers.

62 (currently amended). The vector according to claim 54, wherein the polypeptide of ~~interest~~ is selected from luciferase, green fluorescent protein, alkaline phosphatase or horseradish peroxidase or combinations thereof.

63 (currently amended). The vector according to claim 54, wherein one insulator consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 is positioned upstream and one insulator consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 is positioned downstream of the DNA sequence coding for one or more polypeptides ~~a polypeptide of interest~~.

64 (currently amended). The vector according to claim ~~55~~54, wherein at least two insulators consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 are positioned upstream of a DNA sequence coding for one or more polypeptides ~~a polypeptide of interest~~ and at least two insulators consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 are positioned downstream of said DNA sequence.

65 (previously presented). The vector according to claim 56, wherein at least two coding sequences are positioned between the insulators.

66 (previously presented). The vector according to claim 65, wherein the at least two coding sequences code for subunits of a multimeric protein.

67 (previously presented). The vector according to claim 66, wherein said subunits are an alpha chain and a beta chain of a hormone selected from the group consisting of human FSH, human LH, human TSH and human CG.

68 (previously presented). The vector according to claim 66, wherein said subunits are a heavy chain and a light chain of an immunoglobulin.

69 (previously presented). A host cell comprising an insulator according to claim 52.

70 (previously presented). A host cell transfected with a vector according to claim 53.

71 (previously presented). The host cell according to claim 70, wherein the host cell and the insulator are derived from different species.

72 (previously presented). The host cell according to claim 70, wherein the host cell is a CHO cell.

73 (currently amended). A process for the production of a polypeptide ~~of interest~~ comprising ~~the step of transfecting a host cell with at least one vector and culturing said cells~~ culturing a host cell comprising at least one vector under conditions that allow for the production of said polypeptide, wherein said vector comprises a protein expression sequence comprising a promoter or a functional expression promoting fragment thereof, operably linked to a DNA sequence encoding ~~coding for one or more polypeptides~~, said protein expression sequence being operably flanked both 5' and 3' by at least one insulator consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 ~~of interest and one or more insulators consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 located both upstream and downstream of said promoter domain or a functional expression promoting fragment thereof operably linked to a DNA sequence coding for one or more polypeptides of interest.~~

74 (currently amended). The process according to claim 73, further comprising the step of isolating the polypeptide ~~of interest~~ from the host cells.

75 (canceled).

76 (new). The process according to claim 73, wherein said host cell is a Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cell.